

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Office of the Speaker

November 3, 2011

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
633 3rd Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing to express my concerns with the recent draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit mandating a water cooling facility at Public Service of New Hampshire's Merrimack Station in Bow, New Hampshire. The EPA's draft permit shows great disregard for our state's economy, and is a significant threat to jobs in our state.

At a time when we are doing everything we can to make New Hampshire more competitive and attractive to employers, the federal government is seeking to punish our residents and small businesses with higher electric rates through unnecessary regulation. The Granite State already has among the highest energy costs in the nation, and this federal mandate will make these costs even higher and make it harder to expand our economy and grow good, new jobs here.

If the current Administration is truly interested in helping create new jobs, it would stop his overzealous regulatory mandate immediately. We accept the fact that the Obama Administration will not be assisting our country in allowing businesses to create new jobs. In New Hampshire, all we ask is that it not actively work to prevent job growth here. The working families and small businesses of New Hampshire simply can't afford EPA adding a \$112 million mandate onto our electric bills.

I also object to the EPA attempting to burden New Hampshire electric customers with a costly mandate that is based on regulations that have not been approved. As the agency recognized in its recent letter extending the comment period on this permit, "it remains unavoidably uncertain at the present time when any new final regulations will go into effect under Section 316(b)." EPA should not burden New Hampshire electric customers with the costs associated with regulation that is not legally in effect.

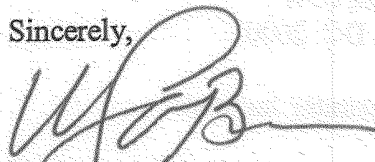
Finally, the Obama Administration and EPA have shown disregard for New Hampshire's residents by scheduling this public hearing in the midst of one of our state's worst storm related electric outages. At a time when more than 40,000 New Hampshire businesses and families are suffering through an extended period without basic electric services due to the recent snow storm, and our state is relying on PSNH to devote all of its resources

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to the restoration effort, the EPA has forced PSNH to divert resources away from the critical effort. Clearly, rescheduling this hearing would have been in the best interest of the people of New Hampshire.

The attempt to implement this crushing, job-killing federal mandate needs to stop now, and we call on the EPA to stop this absurd and outrageous assault on New Hampshire electric ratepayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. O'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William O'Brien
Speaker of the House